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ABSTRACT

This book presents an analysis of the current state of book banning in schools and public libraries, offering ready reference material on major incidents, legal cases, and annotated entries on the most frequently challenged books. Every section of this revised edition has been rewritten, updated, or expanded to reflect new developments. In-depth accounts of three new landmark book banning incidents are featured, along with a discussion of recent Supreme Court decisions involving censorship on the Internet and in book publishing, and a consideration of their implications for book banning in schools and public libraries. Chapter 1 analyzes several major book-banning incidents from 1976 through 1999. Chapter 2 analyzes the modern court cases that comprise the body of precedent concerning First Amendment rights in schools and libraries, revealing the evolving status of constitutional protection against book banning. Chapter 3 presents the voices of some frequently banned authors and their responses to censorship. Chapter 4 surveys the 50 most-banned books during the five-year period 1996 through 2000 and summarizes the challenges to them. Appendices include data from the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)'s Censorship Database 1990-2000, and lists of OIF's most frequently challenged books and authors of 2000, 1999, and 1998. Contains a selected bibliography of 33 titles and an index. (MES)

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